

I. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity, and
- b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a).

2. (Previously Presented) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide is isolated from a coryneform bacterium.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Allowed) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity, and
- (b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a).

6. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide consisting of: the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment thereof, wherein said nucleotide sequence or fragment thereof encode for a polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity.

7. (Allowed) An isolated corynebacterial polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide that is identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 encoding a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity, and
- (b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a).

8-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A member of the coryneform group of bacteria transformed by the polynucleotide according to one of claims 1, 5, 6, or 7.

23. (Previously Presented) Bacteria according to claim 22, wherein the bacteria are of the genus *Corynebacterium*.

24-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity, and
- b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a).

28. (New) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of 1, 5, 7, or 27.

29. (New) The vector of claim 28, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

30. (New) A vector that is an expression vector pXK_{gpmexp} comprising

- (a) the polynucleotide of claims 5 and 7; and
- (b) a restriction map as set forth in Figure 2.

31. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 28.

32. (New) A host cell of claim 31 that is a prokaryotic cell.

33. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.